

BULLETIN  
OF  
THE MARITIME LIBRARY INSTITUTE

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Acadia University Library  
Wolfville, Nova Scotia

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M. L. I. OFFICERS FOR 1938-39

President: Mr. H. Bramwell Chandler, P.E.I. Libraries, Charlottetown, P.E.I.

Vice-Presidents:- For New Brunswick: Miss E.M.A. Vaughan, Saint John Free Public Library, Saint John, N. B. For Nova Scotia: Miss Eugenie Archibald, Dalhousie University Library, Halifax, N. S.  
For Prince Edward Island: Miss Jean C. Gill, Legislative and Public Library, Charlottetown, P. E. I. ..

Secretary-Treasurer: Mrs. Mary Kinley Ingraham, Acadia University Library, Wolfville, N. S.

Councillors:- For New Brunswick: Miss Doreen Harper, Legislative Library, Fredericton, N. B.  
For Nova Scotia: Miss Evelyn M. Campbell, Provincial Science Library, Halifax, N. S.  
For Prince Edward Island: Mr. N. A. Shelfoon, O'Leary, P. E. I.

THE M. L. I. FOURTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Prince Edward Island in June, the Garden of the Gulf, was a fitting academe for a meeting of the librarians of the Maritime Provinces. The fourth annual conference of the Maritime Library Institute held its opening session on the morning of June 22 at Prince of Wales College, Charlottetown, P. E. I., President E.M.A. Vaughan in the chair. Thirty-five were in attendance, according to a later report of Mrs. B. M. Moore, the registrar.

The President's Address

The President's address was brief and comprehensive. In a rapidly changing world, what was the function of librarians, she asked, what was their place in a democracy? The public library is a great factor in building up a people. "By lead more than by gold has the world been transformed," she quoted, "the lead of the compositor's tray." Current matters referred to in the address were: the Royal Commission on Dominion-Provincial Relations and the briefs presented by various library associations in Canada; the indexing of magazines undertaken recently by the Library of the University of Toronto; a new movement for organising library effort in New Brunswick. The President congratulated Miss

Marion Gilroy of the Public Archives of Nova Scotia on the Carnegie grant-in-aid recently awarded her enabling her to take a year's training in Library Science at Columbia University.

#### The Secretary-Treasurer's Communications, Minutes, Reports

After the President's report the Secretary read letters of greeting to the Conference from Miss Eugenie Archibald of Dalhousie University Library, Miss Winifred Snider of Mount Allison University Library, and Miss Mabel Sterling of the Library of the University of New Brunswick.

The reading of the minutes of the 1937 Conference followed, and after these were approved the Secretary-Treasurer presented her report. During the year six new active members, one associate member, and one institutional member had been enrolled, and one member, Miss Adelaide P. Fitch, had been removed by death. Other matters noted were: the chapter affiliation with the A. L. A.; the Government Library Survey of Nova Scotia by Miss Bateson and her subsequent Report; the Royal Commission on Dominion-Provincial Relations and the briefs presented by the M. L. I.; the four issues of the Bulletin that had been sent out during the year. The financial statement showed that the balance on hand June 15, 1938, was \$114.48. The report was adopted and a motion passed that those in arrears who wished to hold their membership be forgiven all dues to June, 1938, and be asked only for annual fees from that date.

#### Committees and Arrangements

The president appointed a Nominating Committee, - Miss Gilroy, Mrs. Moore, and Miss Gill, asking that a report be brought in at the afternoon session; and also a Committee on Resolutions, - Miss Campbell and Miss Macdonald.

Miss C. A. Allan of Kings University Library invited the M. L. I. to meet for its fifth conference in 1939 at Halifax, N. S., mentioning the month of May as a convenient time; Mrs. B. M. Moore asked us to meet in the City of Moncton, N. B. On motion, it was decided that the invitation to Halifax be accepted, with grateful acknowledgments to Mrs. Moore.

#### Reports from Libraries

Informal reports from individual libraries occupied one of the most pleasant hours of the Conference. First, Mr. Chandler, Director of the P.E.I. Regional Library System, spoke of the work of the central library at Charlottetown and that of its various branches throughout the Island. During the year there had been a financial increase of \$2000; the book stock comprised more than 44,000 volumes. Mr. Chandler was convinced that the future of regional libraries was insured by the success of study clubs. The central library serves the Island clubs with films, including slides, projector, and operator, as well as with books; it also sends collections of books to rural schools.

Miss Gill reported for the Legislative and Public Library of the city of Charlottetown. This lady demonstrates admirably the possibility of combining the functions of a legislative and public library under one administration.

Miss Allen, speaking for the Library of the University of King's College, said that Dalhousie and King's libraries were to have a union catalogue, and that



the work of compiling this was under way. The library staff of King's is undertaking projects to encourage reading in the college women's residence.

Miss Zaidee Harris is the proprietor and librarian of the Peter Pan Library in Halifax. This is open to the children of the City, on payment of a regular fee, fifteen hours a week.

Miss Mary Fraser reported progress in the Dalhousie University Library. There will soon be a new building for the medical library.

In the Acadia University Library Mrs. Ingraham reported that the two outstanding matters for the year were the enrolment of the library among the depositories for the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, and the reorganization of a system of travelling libraries.

Miss M. C. Macdonald reported that plans for a new library building are being discussed at St. Francis Xavier University. A larger student body has taxed the facilities to the utmost.

Miss Mary Falconer gave an interesting account of a new reading room for children recently opened in Halifax in connection with the Junior League. On the day of opening ninety children were in attendance.

Miss Barnaby of the Citizens' Free Library in Halifax reported a circulation of 71,492. Progress is retarded by lack of housing room. During the year Friends of the Library have been active.

Miss Harper reported the busiest year in the history of the New Brunswick Legislative Library. The Canadian Institute of International Affairs meets in the Library, and keeps there its excellent collection of books.

Miss Campbell reported that the circulation of the Provincial Science Library in Halifax had doubled during the year. People in rural districts write to this library for books on many subjects, - commercial art, handicrafts, history of science, scientific farming, geology.

Miss Marion Gilroy reported happily for the Archives of Nova Scotia. This noble institution is young, but the service for which it was established is old as the foundations of history.

Mrs. Moore spoke for Moncton Public Library. In eleven years 10,000 members have been registered. The library serves not only the people of Moncton, but many in outlying districts. The circulation is 57,000.

Miss M. Hope Jarvis reported unofficially for the University of New Brunswick Library. She spoke of the Model League of Nations and its activities.

Miss Tilley reported for the Library of Mount Allison University, and especially for the I.O.D.E. library for children. This is kept in a special room of the commodious new library building at Mount Allison.

Miss Vaughan informed the Conference that the Saint John Free Public Library occasionally circulates as many as 1000 books in a day. She reported activity in the Friends of the Library Group, and also in the Saint John Branch of the M. L. I.

On motion by Miss Campbell these reports were adopted and the morning session adjourned.

#### Paper on Pamphlets in the Library

President Vaughan called the Conference to order for the afternoon session soon after two o'clock. Miss Teresa Sears of the P. E. I. Libraries held the close attention of her fellow librarians while she fearlessly crossed that pons asinorum of the profession, and showed them the possibility of putting vitality into the collection, the care, and the circulation of pamphlets. We hope to publish this intensely practical paper in the next issue of the Bulletin, and therefore we attempt no synopsis here. It provoked lively discussion of a type that modern librarians can resume at any moment. In caring for pamphlets in constant use, Miss Sears demon-

strated the use of an inexpensive filing case, cardboard with tin facing, sufficiently large to hold the standard folders.

#### Report of the Nominating Committee

After Miss Sears's paper the report of the Nominating Committee was heard and adopted. A list of the officers of the M. L. I. for the year 1938-39 will be found on the first page of this issue of the Bulletin.

#### Symposium on Reading Interests

A symposium on reading interests occupied the remainder of the afternoon session. In the absence of the appointed chairman, Miss E. Archibald, her place was taken by Miss Gilroy.

Miss Vaughan discussed the reading interests in a large town or a city, taking Saint John as her basis. The interests, she said, depended on the character of the town, - was it largely industrial, was it the seat of a university, or was it a seat of government? Are there many clubs in the town? Often it is dangerous to gauge the reading interests of people in various classes too definitely; a housemaid came to the Saint John Library seeking a copy of "Man the Unknown".

Miss Gill spoke of the reading interests in a small city, referring to her experience in Charlottetown. The population is 14,000. During the years since the regional library was established by the aid of the Carnegie Foundation there has been a marked change in the reading interests of the citizens, a notable development. In the public library, the broad division is between fiction and non-fiction; the demand for the latter in Charlottetown is in the following order: biography, literature, travel, social science, history, fine arts, useful arts.

Mrs. Robert Donohue of Souris, P.E.I., had prepared a paper on rural reading interests; this was read by Mr. Chandler. A timely discussion followed; it was generally recognized that the problem of those committed to library service was to reach the rural population with books.

#### Keppoch Beach

At the close of this session cars were waiting to convey the librarians to Keppoch Beach, where they were entertained at the summer cottage of Miss Margaret Jenkins. The younger ones of the company bathed in Old Ocean; the older ones chatted in happy groups on the verandah and lawn. All were then served with what purported to be afternoon tea, but proved itself a substantial supper.

#### Address by the Minister of Education

At 7:30 the Conference met for the evening session, the Vice-President, Miss Vaughan, in the chair. Hon. Mark R. McGuigan, Minister of Education for Prince Edward Island, welcomed the assembled librarians in a brief, pertinent address. He was glad to have a convention of this kind meet on the Island, and especially glad that the meeting was in the capital city. He welcomed also the branch librarians in the P. E. I. regional library system, many of whom were in attendance. The library movement he regarded as important and significant, even in the way of dividends. The speaker quoted Sir William Osler as saying that libraries paid better than mining stock.



Education is not finished when the boy or girl leaves school; the necessity to learn follows us through our adult life. There are two kinds of education, that which we get from others and that which we give ourselves. Mr. McGuigan concluded his address by quoting the opinion of a leading educationist that the Prince Edward Island regional library system was the best of its kind in Canada.

#### Paper on Government Documents

The new President, Mr. Bramwell Chandler, then took the chair and called upon Miss Doreen Harper, Librarian of the New Brunswick Legislative Library, to read a paper on the subject of government documents in the Maritime Provinces. As by a subsequent order of the Institute this paper was reproduced and widely distributed, no synopsis is necessary. The possibility of a union catalogue of the government documents in Maritime libraries was the most important matter that emerged in the discussion that followed. The resolution that Miss Harper's paper be printed and distributed was heartily supported.

#### A Lecture and a Motion Picture

The Conference then adjourned for an hour to attend a meeting of the Convention of Women's Institutes in the Assembly Room of the same building, where Dr. Kingsley Roberts lectured on Cooperative Medicine. Returning to the Conference Room the M. L. I. delegation was delighted and instructed by a motion picture shown by President Chandler, "The Making of a Book".

#### Paper on the Selection of Books for Children

The Conference assembled for its last session on the morning of the 23rd, President Chandler in the chair. The meeting began with a paper prepared and read by Miss Dorothy Cullen of the P. E. I. Libraries, "The Selection of Books for Children." This vital subject was most interestingly discussed by Miss Cullen, and her listeners learned much about delightful children's books. We hope to publish the paper in the next issue of the Bulletin; and we are the more eager to do this because of the interest shown in the discussion that followed. Mr. Chandler's remark that often an Oxford don turns out a "really stunning children's book" showed that he, for one, understood that a genius for entertaining children is not inconsistent with scholarly vocation.

#### A Round Table

Next followed a Round Table discussion on two topics: (1) the necessity and possibility of a union catalogue for the Maritime Provinces; (2) publicity for the library. On the first of these no definite conclusion was reached, though the excellent and thoughtful discussion helped to clear ideas on the matter. On the second topic the discussion moved towards a practical and immediate issue. Mr. Chandler thus summed up: we should encourage the establishment of regional libraries, but as an Institute we should also encourage the isolated efforts of small communities. Miss Gilroy moved that a committee of five be appointed to work on the publicity of the library idea, and to help in efforts for library establishment. On motion by Miss Vaughan, President Chandler was appointed chairman of the committee, and chose the other members as follows: Miss Harper, Miss Falconer, Mrs. Moore, Miss Gallant.

In respect to the proposed meeting of library associations and

institutes in Eastern Canada with the Quebec Library Association in Montreal some time during 1939, it was decided that our annual meeting be held in Halifax as planned, but that any members of the M. L. I. who will on their own expense attend the general conference in Montreal be certified as our delegates.

#### The Motor Tour

In the afternoon the delegates enjoyed a motor trip to Summerside and Borden, calling on the way at the branch libraries of Cavendish and Hunter River. Miss Burrows received them in her bright, well-appointed library at Summerside; Mayor Campbell with several gentlemen of the town gave them welcome in brief addresses; finally, the ladies of Summerside entertained them with afternoon tea.

#### The Return

Then it was time to return to our libraries and homes, and so we made our way to the boat that was to carry us from the fair Island shores, speaking to one another as we went, not only of the beauty of the capital city, of the lovely landscapes we had seen on our tour, of the happy and successful conference we had enjoyed, but of the wonderful hospitality of the Islanders.

#### NOTES AND PERSONALS

Items of Maritime library interest will be found in the Report of the M.L.I. Conference in this issue, under the heading - Reports from Libraries.

In Nova Scotia five commissioners have been appointed by the Government to administer the recent Regional Libraries Act, - namely, Dr. H. F. Munro, Superintendent of Education, Halifax, N. S., Chairman; Dr. Frank Parker Day, Lake Annis, N. S.; Rev. Dr. J. J. Tompkins, Reserve Mines, C. B.; Judge A. J. Crockett, New Glasgow, N.S.; and Mr. James Garrow, Bank of Montreal, Halifax, N. S. The duties of this Commission are: "to promote and encourage the extension of public libraries throughout the Province, to supervise all library work supported under the Act, to administer gifts and grants for such libraries and to cooperate with all persons and groups interested in library service."

The International Federation for Documentation will hold its 14th Conference at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford University, from September 21 to 26, 1938. The Canadian Government will be represented at the Conference by a member of the Canadian High Commissioner's office in London, and is prepared to associate with this delegate any Canadian librarian of standing who may be in England during the period of the Conference and who may wish to attend. Should any active member of the M. L. I. find it possible to attend this Conference, please communicate immediately with the Secretary, who will make the necessary arrangements with the Canadian Under Secretary of State for External Affairs.